

Two UMS postgrad students win int'l competitions

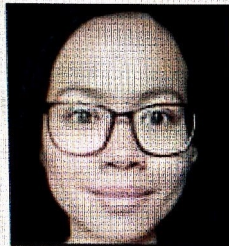
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KOTA KINABALU: Two Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) postgraduate students from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FBEA) have proven that online presentation is not an obstacle for them to win and shine at international competitions.

This also proved that a change from conventional learning to online learning, more conferences have moved to online platforms devoid of the hustle and bustle of physical attendance.

Ng Yen Phin, a PhD candidate, won the Best Presenter Award for the 3MT - 3 Minute Thesis competition at the International Postgraduate Symposium in Tourism and Hospitality (IPSTH 2020), an international competition jointly organised by National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism (NKUHT), Taiwan and UCSI University, Malaysia.

Ng, who hailed from Lahad Datu, shared the content of her manuscript entitled "The Meaning of Work for Tourist Guides" in three minutes using one PowerPoint slide, won the hearts of the panel of international judges comprising industry experts and academicians from a



Ng



Zhang

total of 25 Phd students from across Asia.

Ng thanked her supervisors, Dr Balvinder Kaur Kler and Dr Oscar Dousin from FBEA for their guidance on script preparation and presentation practices over Google Meet.

Zhang Ke, an international student from China won the Best Paper Award at the 1st Asian Tourism Research Conference, jointly organised by Mahatma Gandhi University, India and Sunway University, Malaysia.

Zhang, a lecturer attached with Neijiang Normal University in China, is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in UMS, presented a paper entitled "Sunset, Seafood & Sea-gypsies in Malaysian Borneo: An Alternative Destination Image for China Tourists" during the confer-

ence via Webex platform.

Zhang co-authored the paper with his supervisor, Dr Balvinder Kaur Kler, received recognition from a total of 45 papers presented at the three-day conference.

The ceremony, which is held through online platform was a different experience to her.

"When the awards were announced, I was nowhere near my students and could only smile at the screen. Although the experience of celebrating was not the same, the key point is that we won, which is a great end to the year 2020.

"Reading, for a PhD candidate, can be a lonely journey. So conference attendance is important in building confidence and motivation," Dr Balvinder said while informing her plan to celebrate the victories with her students once life is back to normal.

FBEA Dean, Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur was also pleased with the students' achievements and he believed that the quality of postgraduate supervision at UMS will continue to thrive even during the new norm.